

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously presented) An isolated human protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Previously presented) An isolated human protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 4. (Cancelled).

Claim 5. (Currently amended) An isolated cDNA ~~CDNA~~ encoding the human protein of claim 1 or 3.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The cDNA ~~CDNA~~ of claim 5, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The cDNA ~~CDNA~~ of claim 5, which comprises the ~~a~~ nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 8. (Cancelled).

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the cDNA of claim 6.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the cDNA of claim 7.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody which binds specifically against the human protein of claim 1.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody which binds specifically against the human protein of claim 3.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method for promoting the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the cDNA ~~CDNA~~ of claim 6 together with an expression regulatory sequence into the cells.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A method for promoting the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the cDNA ~~CDNA~~ of claim 7 together with an expression regulatory sequence into the cells.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method for suppressing the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the antibody of claim 12 into the cells.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A method for suppressing the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the antibody of claim 13 into the cells.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide consisting of the ~~an~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ~~SEQ~~ ID NO: 1.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide consisting of the ~~an~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ~~SEQ~~ ID NO: 2.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 18 or 19.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 20, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 20, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 21.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 22.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody which binds specifically against the polypeptide of claim 18.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody which binds specifically against the polypeptide of claim 19.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A method for promoting the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the polynucleotide of claim 21 together with an expression regulatory sequence into the cells.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) A method for promoting the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the polynucleotide of claim 22 together with an expression regulatory sequence into the cells.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) A method for suppressing the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the antibody of claim 25 into the cells.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) A method for suppressing the proliferation of cells *in vitro*, which comprises introducing the antibody of claim 26 into the cells.